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Testimony Of

W. STUART SYMINGTON
Assistant Secretary of War for Air

Before The
Armed Services Committee
United States Senate

20 March 47

*Read in the Secretary's
absence by Mr. Eugene
Zuckert, special asst.*

On

A Bill Proposing

"THE NATIONAL SECURITY ACT OF 1947"

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p 3, 4, 9 + 15

Statement of Hon. Robert P. Patterson, Secretary of War, before Armed Services Committee of U. S. Senate, re S. 758, creating National Defense Establishment, March 20, 1947.

20,

I give unqualified support to the bill to unify the armed forces, S. 758.

Provisions of bill.

The bill creates a National Defense Establishment, consisting of the Department of the Army, Department of the Navy and Department of the Air Force.

The head of the National Defense Establishment is the Secretary of National Defense, with the power and duty:

- (1) to establish policies and programs for the National Defense Establishment and for the departments and agencies in it;
- (2) to exercise direction, authority and control over such departments and agencies;
- (3) to supervise preparation of budget estimates by the departments and agencies, to determine the budget estimates of the National Defense Establishment for submission to the Bureau of the Budget, and to supervise and control the budget program of the National Defense Establishment.

The proviso is made that the three departments shall be administered as individual units by their respective secretaries, under direction of the Secretary